Port Program Committee Meeting

September 30, 2011

In attendance: Barbara, Marelda, Jenny, Sarah, Lisa, Susan, Erin, Mary K, Elysa, (+Dana Green)

Dana Green attended this meeting to continue planning the November fundraising week with the committee.

Updates after meeting with the local community group this morning:

* + Merchandize like shirts and hats have been decided on.
  + Fireworks will be held on Friday November 4, 2011.
  + The local community group purchased lanterns and shepherds hooks to line the streets from downtown to the Seaport.
  + The Mystic Art Association will be having a talk by Bill Peterson with wine and cheese as well as Ballroom swing demonstrations.
  + There will be 1940’s cars in downtown.

According to Dana there will be speakers at 1PM on Saturday November 5 (The day the Museum is open for FREE). She is hoping to keep it a 45 minute presentation with a stage and seating to accommodate 100 people. Dana is working on finding a rain site as the River Room is already booked. **Dana to send Marelda a short description of the presentation by Tuesday.**

Other topics that were discussed:

* + There should be a charge for chowder if it is plentiful, hot and easily accessible.
  + There should be a fee for the Planetarium shows. **Sarah to send Marelda a short description about the Planetarium shows available.**
  + **Move dogwatch to the new exhibit in Mallory in order to have more energy. Keep a smaller dogwatch at 3PM on the Morgan as Lisa discussed.**

A draft of the Today sheet needs to be sent to Sue by October 4-5, 2011.

Dana should continue to update Marelda about new events and programs as they are confirmed.

Susan updated everyone that Martha’s Vineyard has been added to the list of ports the CWM will go to. A friend of Matthew’s has provided the tug and the mooring. Martha’s Vineyard will mostly be a place to have a cocktail party with the donors.

With new ports being added and with the charrette being so close we need start thinking about what our message is. How do we put the NEH themes in a way that companies and the general public will be moved by? This could be a question we as the scholars at the charrette.

What to do about the uncertainty of arrival and departure? Elysa suggested we could build up the uncertainty in our favor and create a buzz around who spots the Morgan first.

We next shifted gears and started talking about the Month at the Museum 2. Susan asked everyone in the group to vote for their favorite finalist before the meeting.

By listening to the reasons for voting the way each person did a list of positives and negatives was created.

Negatives:

Annoying

Know-it-alls

Snarky/ Too opinionated they might say the wrong thing and get the museum in trouble

Too qualified skill set

Turned off by people collecting cool experiences

People that would be entirely too out of their element and leave early

Positives:

Drawn to people who are similar to us

People who are compelling to see succeed

Articulate

Appealing

Someone to root for (green hand)

Sense of humor

Flexibility/ willingness to try new things

Someone who will experience things for all of us

People with museum/ classroom qualities, Museum appropriate looking

Questions/Thoughts that were raised during the discussion:

* How many votes are coming in a day? If people are voting every day it is getting them invested
* The biographies are important for people that don’t want to watch the videos and vice versa.
* Do the judge’s thoughts/opinions sway voters? No, more of a summary.
* Do the public’s votes really pick the winner? Yes, the museum probably knows that any of the 6 could work.
* What part of the voyage do we want our stowaway to be on? Should we have several and make it like a reality show… “How long til this one is found out?”
* Does MS wait to reveal the stowaway until we are underway?
* The stowaway that is chosen needs to be a bit like a “crash test dummy” who is willing to do funny/foolish things: wear oil skins, test sunblock, breeches buoy, climb the rigging, eat hardtack, row the whaleboats, make a meal , etc. Could make these things publicized challenges in order to narrow down the contestants.

Lastly Susan shared a sweet story about a Pine Point student who wrote a letter discussing how the Morgan changed his understanding of history.

**The next meeting will be on Friday, October 14 from 10AM-11:30AM.**